



Auburn Justice Center
Placer County Probation
Code of Ethics

We recognize the profound responsibilities in a profession dedicated to the protection of the community. The following are our guiding precepts both on and off duty:

- We will serve with humility, uphold the law with dignity, honesty and integrity, and act without prejudice.
- We will respect the inalienable rights of others, respect the privacy of our clients, and be objective in the performance of our duties.
- We will treat each other with cooperation, respect, and fairness regardless of position or assignment.
- We will remain aware of our responsibilities to the community, the department and the individual.
- We will improve professional standards through continuously seeking knowledge, education, and training.

Placer County Probation is an integral part of Placer County's public safety structure, charged with the supervision of adult and juvenile offenders granted probation by the Courts. The employees of the Placer County Probation Department are proud of their contributions supporting the Court, our justice partners and helping make safer and healthier communities.

*Marshall Hopper
Chief Probation Officer
David McManus
Assistant Chief Probation Officer*

Probation Officers Sworn In As Traffic Hearing Officers

By Probation Manager Debra Smith

On January 11, 2012, Senior Deputy Probation Officers David Keenan, Melanie Esque, and Kevin Badten were sworn in by Superior Court Judge Frances Kearney as Juvenile Traffic Hearing Officers.

Traffic Hearing Officers may hear and dispose of certain minor misdemeanor and infraction offenses of the Vehicle, Penal, Business and Professions, Harbors and Navigation, and Fish and Game Codes in which a minor is under the age of 18 years. During the last fiscal year, Placer County Probation officers conducted 370 traffic hearings.



Officers Keenan, Esque, and Badten at the swearing-in ceremony

PLACER COUNTY PROBATION

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Tahoe Work Release

By Officer Vanessa Verigin

Last year, work release participants through the North Lake Tahoe Probation Office provided the Public Utilities District with 807 days of service. This amounted to over six thousand, four hundred hours worth of service hours.

Projects included maintenance and beautification of local beaches and parks, landscaping around the Kings Beach Library, and upkeep at the little league field.

Last year's long winter meant that snow removal was needed well into the spring and early summer months. After the snow finally melted away, there was a lot of cleaning up to do.

In addition to the usual snow removal and trash pickup duties, many program participants had an opportunity to give back to the community using their unique skills, such as carpentry or landscape design.

So far this year, program participants have been hard at work sanding and refinishing boards to renovate a large wooden pier.

Not only will this project improve the appearance of the pier, but it will also provide a lasting financial and environmental contribution by preserving the wood's quality. In return, workers benefit from the chance to be a part of something beneficial to the extraordinary place that they call home.

Officer Verigin
interviewing a
juvenile



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On average, the Adult
Supervision Unit supervises over
3,500 adult offenders granted
formal probation

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Criminality and Delinquency Among Juvenile Populations

By Officer Brian Overton

Over recent years, probation departments throughout California have steadily adopted new and progressive approaches to addressing issues of criminality and delinquency among juvenile populations. As late as 2003, agencies and courts within the State primarily responded to juvenile offenses simply with periods of detention in secure facilities.

Research now suggests that placing adolescents into custody produces almost no benefit for rehabilitation, and the length of detention and future recidivism are positively correlated.

Subsequent analysis of these findings indicates most cases of juvenile delinquency can be attributed to either substance abuse, family dysfunction, or various degrees of psychological dysfunction.

In response to the above data, the Placer County Probation Department and Children's System of Care has shown to be the leading and pioneering agencies in the development and implementation of alternative approaches to juvenile rehabilitation. These early intervention services are co-facilitated through the Probation Department's Juvenile Division and Children's System of Care, to comprise a unit of specially trained Probation Officers.

Through solidified inter-departmental and community partnerships, programming such as Wraparound, Functional Family Therapy, Intensive Services, Drug Court, and the Youth Resource Center have yielded highly positive and lasting results.

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78% of offenders are on
adult probation for a
felony offense

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Probation Matters

SPRING 2012

PLACER COUNTY PROBATION

First In-Custody Group of “Courage to Change” Graduates

The Placer County Probation Department recognized the first “in-custody” group to complete a module of Courage to Change on February 3rd, 2012 in the Placer County Jail barracks. A group of 10 female inmates completed the Self-Control Module of the Courage to Change program. The program is an interactive, cognitive-based, self-improvement program offered as part of the Probation Department’s endeavor to use evidence based practices to reduce recidivism in offenders.

One participant stated, “Things I didn’t really realize were bothering me were brought up and dealt with”. Another claimed, “It’s like counseling” it “really helped to work things out”.

The goal of cognitive based programs such as Courage to Change is to enable the offender to make better decisions for internal reasons as opposed to external controls.

Courage to Change courses have been provided by the Probation Department to offenders out of custody, but this is the first in-custody module. Recent legislation, including AB 109, has allowed increased resources to adult offenders in an effort to more effectively deal with the root causes of criminal behavior, thereby increasing public safety by reducing re-offenses.

The Placer County Probation Department is hopeful that an increased use of evidence based programs such as Courage to Change, which are demonstrated to change thinking and behavior, will result in fewer crimes being committed.

“We are in the business of changing people’s behavior to improve public safety” stated Assistant Chief Probation Officer David McManus. “Why not supplement our traditional duties as peace officers with practices that are demonstrated to be effective?”

“The program is an interactive, cognitive-based, self-improvement program offered as part of the Probation Department’s endeavor to use evidence based practices to reduce recidivism in offenders.”

“The goal of cognitive based programs such as Courage to Change is to get the offender to make better decisions for internal reasons as opposed to external controls.”



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Last year the Adult
Supervision Unit
conducted 11,791
office visits

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Probation Department “Most Wanted”

By Supervising Officer Brian Passenheim

In May 2010, the Probation Department created the “Most Wanted” page on the Department’s website. The Most Wanted page was established in an attempt to obtain information on the possible whereabouts of offenders who have active warrants for their arrest.

Since the inception of Placer County Probation’s Most Wanted webpage, 124 warrants have been cleared. The Most Wanted page can be found at placer.ca.gov/probation/mostwanted.

Probation’s Warrant Response Team

By Supervising Officer Brian Passenheim

The Placer County Probation Department has an active Warrant Response Team. The Warrant Team consists of Field Supervision Officers who are tasked with reducing the number of outstanding warrants. Officers rotate their time to assist probationers to clear outstanding bench warrants.

The Warrant Team conducts investigations using computer records, collateral contacts and law enforcement information sharing to apprehend absconded probationers.

These random warrant sweeps have led to numerous arrests and cleared over 75 warrants.



Placer County
Probation’s Warrant
Response Team

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Last year Adult Probation
Officers made 8,577
offender contacts in our
community

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